

**FLORIDA BUTTERFLIES  
RECORDED DURING MARCH-APRIL, 1981**

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FLORIDA IS OF particular interest to Lepidopterists because of its geographical location on the continent of North America: it is a peninsula surrounded by the sea on three sides. Some of the butterflies are native, some migrants, whilst some are common to other parts of mainland North America as well as to the Caribbean islands to the south and south-east, and Central and South America (Barcant, 1970; Lewis, 1974; Riley, 1975; Harris, 1989; Gerberg & Arnett, 1989; Scott, 1992).

Florida is one of the United States most affected by building development in recent decades, particularly for the tourist industry. Hence land utilisation is changing rapidly, as consequently are fragile habitats and their associated butterfly faunas. Clearly, such faunas need to be monitored temporally as well as spatially in order to determine which species are under special threat from land development.

Between 28 March and 10 April, 1981, HDL visited Florida on an entomological and ornithological field trip. During this time, voucher butterfly specimens were collected throughout the state and identified. In this paper, we present a list of the species recorded, along with a brief discussion of the findings. We hope that this information may be useful to other entomologists studying the spatio-temporal dynamics of the butterflies of this region.

**Species recorded**

The scientific and English names used follow Scott, 1992. The number of examples recorded is given in brackets after each entry.

**Family PAPILIONIDAE**

**Tribe Leptocircini: Kite Swallowtails**

*Eurytides marcellus* Cramer Zebra Swallowtail

Ocala Nat. Forest, near Gainesville, 2.iv. 1981 (2); Osceola Nat. Forest, near Lake City, 2.iv.1981 (1)

**Tribe Papilionini: Fluted Swallowtails**

*Papilio cresphontes* Cramer Giant Swallowtail

Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1); Key West, 10.iv.1981 (1)

*P. troilus* Linnaeus Spicebush Swallowtail

Florida Caverns, Marianna, 1.iv.1981 (1)

*P. palamedes* Drury Laurel Swallowtail

Osceola Nat. Forest, 2.iv.1981 (1); Lake Woodruff Nat. Wildlife refuge, near De Land, 2.iv.1981 (1)

**Family PIERIDAE****Subfamily Coliadinae: Sulfurs**

*Colias eurytheme* Boisduval Orange Sulfur

Lake Okeechobee, near Okeechobee, 5.iv.1981 (4)

*Phoebis sennae* Linnaeus Cloudless Sulfur

Newman's Lake, Gainesville, 2.iv.1981 (1)

*P. agarithe* Boisduval Large Orange Sulfur

Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1)

*P. philea* Linnaeus Orange-barred Sulfur

Key West, 10.iv.1981 (3)

*Eurema daira* Godart Barred Sulfur

Ocala Nat. Forest, Gainesville, 2.iv.1981 (1); Tamiami Trail, near Miami, 28.iii.1981 (1); Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1)

*Nathalis iole* Boisduval Dainty Sulfur

Turkey Point, near Florida City, 6.iv.1981 (4)

**Subfamily Pierinae: Whites**

*Pieris protodice* Boisduval & Leconte Chequered White

Lake Okeechobee, near Okeechobee, 5.iv.1981 (3)

*Ascia monuste* Linnaeus Southern White

Flamingo, south Florida, 7.iv.1981 (1); Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1)

*Appias drusilla* Cramer Tropical White

Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1)

**Family NYMPHALIDAE****Subfamily Satyrinae: Satyrs**

*Hermeuptychia hermes* Fabricius Southern Satyr

Cottdale, near Marianna, 31.iii.1981 (1)

*Megisto cymela* Cramer Little Wood Satyr

Newman's Lake, Gainesville 2.iv.1981 (1)

**Tribe Nymphalini: Varied Brush-Footed butterflies**

*Marpesia petreus* Cramer Red Dagger Wing

Everglades 7.iv.1981 (1)

*Anartia jatrophae* Johanssen White Peacock

Turkey Point 6.iv.1981 (4)

*Precis coenia* Hübner Buckeye

Lake Woodruff, 2.iv.1981 (1); Merritt Island, 3.iv.1981 (1)

*Vanessa atalanta* Linnaeus Red Admiral

Newman's Lake, Gainesville 2.iv.1981 (1)

**Tribe Melitaeini: Checkerspots and Crescents***Phyciodes tharos* Drury Pearl Crescent

Ocala Nat. Forest, 2.iv.1981 (1); Florida Caverns, Marianna 1.iv.1981 (1)

*P. phaon* Edwards Mat-Plant Crescent

Turkey Point, 6.iv. 1981 (1)

*P. frisia* Poey Black Crescent

Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1)

**Tribe Heliconiini: Longwings***Dione vanillae* Linnaeus Gulf Fritillary

Tamiami Trail, Miami, 6.iv.1981 (1)

*Heliconius charitonia* Linnaeus Zebra Long Wing

Key West, 10.iv.1981 (2)

**Family LYCAENIDAE****Subfamily Lycaeninae, Tribe Theclini: Hairstreaks***Strymon melinus* Hübner Grey Hairstreak

Keys, 9.iv.1981 (1)

**Tribe Polyommagini: Blues***Leptotes cassius* Cramer Tropical Striped Blue

Upper Matecumbe Key, Keys, 9.iv.1981 (2)

**Family HESPERIIDAE****Subfamily Hesperinae: Grass Skippers***Copaeodes minima* Edwards Tiny Skipper

Lake Okeechobee, near Okeechobee, 5.iv.1981 (1)

*Asbolis capucinus* Lucas Palm Skipper (The Monk)

Key West, 10.iv.1981 (1)

*Panoquina panoquin* Scudder Salt-Marsh Skipper

Merritt Island 3.iv.1981 (4)

**Subfamily Pyrginae: Herb, Shrub, and Tree Skippers***Urbanus proteus* Linnaeus Long-Tailed Skipper

Key West 10.iv.1981 (2)

*Thorybes bathyllus* Abbot & Smith Eastern Cloudy Wing

Lake Woodruff, 2.iv.1981 (1)

*Erynnis brizo* Boisduval & Leconte Banded Oak Dusky Wing

Ocala Forest, Gainesville 2.iv.1981 (2)

### Discussion

The recorded species were identified using the field guides of Barcant (1970), Lewis (1974), Riley (1975), Harris (1989), Gerberg & Arnett (1989) and Scott (1992). The last work, which is comprehensive and generally excellent, unfortunately does not list the authors of specific names.

In all, thirty two species were recorded during the period 28 March to 10 April, 1981, some 5% of the total of 679 butterflies listed for North America by Scott (1992). All the species recorded fall within the distributions presented by Scott (1992) for North America, and are either native subtropical species (*M. petreus*; *A. jatrophae*) or predominantly resident subtropical/eastern deciduous forest species of the Florida peninsula/ Keys and south-eastern States (eg. *A. drusilla*, *P. frisia*, *H. charitonia*, *A. capucinus*), with year-round ranges. Many of the species recorded are migratory to a greater or lesser extent (e.g. *P. philea*, *P. agarithe*, *L. cassius*, *U. proteus*, *V. atalanta*). *V. atalanta*, a renowned migrant of both the Old and New Worlds, has at least four flights throughout the year in southern Florida, southern Texas and lowland California (Scott, 1992). In conclusion, from this brief survey, the species recorded are typical for Florida and no 'unusual' species were found in terms of geographical distribution or phenology.

### References

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- Harris, L. jnr., 1989. *Butterflies of Georgia*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, Oklahoma, U.S.A.
- Lewis, H.L., 1974. *Butterflies of the World*. Harrap, London.
- Riley, N.D., 1975. *Field Guide to the Butterflies of the West Indies*. Collins, London.
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### The Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria* Hb. (Lep.: Geometridae) on the Isle of Wight

I captured an example of the Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria* at m.v. light at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, on 11 August 1997. This appears to be only the second record for the island; the first was taken at Sandown as long ago as 5 September 1902 (Prout, 1902, *Ent. Rec.* **14**: 274). No doubt this was an immigrant, since both the Silver-Y *Autographa gamma* L. and the pyralid *Udea ferrugalis* Hb. were also taken on the same night.— S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.